

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 4, 6, and 9 are in independent form. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, and Claim 10 has been amended as to matters of form. The specification has been amended so as to conform the Summary of Invention section with the amended claims. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,170,428 (Watanabe et al.).

Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to perform ring-type multiple-address transmission, the apparatus including a registration unit, a start selector, a ring-type multiple-address reception transfer selector, and a controller. The registration unit registers a sub-address signal and a communication specification so as to correspond to a memory box. The start selector selects a start of a ring-type multiple-address transmission. The ring-type multiple-address reception transfer selector selects a transfer of a ring-type multiple-address reception. The controller performs a control operation so that, when a start of ring-type multiple-address transmission has been selected, transmitter information is added, and, when a transfer of ring-type multiple-address reception has been selected, the transmitter information is not added. The communication apparatus performs ring-type multiple-address transmission/reception of image data, and the transmitter information is added as image data.

One important feature of Claim 1 is that when a start of ring-type multiple-address transmission has been selected, transmitter information is added, and, when a transfer of ring-type multiple-address reception has been selected, the transmitter information is not added.

Watanabe et al. relates to a data communication apparatus. Fig. 1 is a diagram for explaining the repeating multiple-address transmission of Watanabe et al. In Fig. 1, reference numeral 1 denotes a facsimile apparatus as a repeater station for performing the repeating multiple-address transmission; 2 is a facsimile apparatus for requesting the repeating multiple-address transmission; 3 is a facsimile apparatus for receiving the repeating data from the facsimile apparatus 1; 4 is a data communication network which is used for only the data communication or for the communication of digital data; and 5 is a telephone network which is used for the communication of voice and data.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing a facsimile apparatus. Reference numeral 6 denotes a CPU to control the whole apparatus; 7 is an operation unit to input a telephone number and the like; 8 is a read unit to read an original document; 9 is a record unit; 10 is an image memory to store image data upon transmission and reception; 11 is a selection signal transmission unit to the network and a transmission/reception unit of a procedure signal and an image signal; 12 is a detection circuit of a facsimile call signal which is incoming from the data communication network; 13 is a detection circuit of a call signal which is incoming from the telephone network; 14 is a hook detection circuit to detect the state (ON or OFF) of the receiver of a telephone set which is connected to the facsimile apparatus; 15 is a CML relay to switch between the transmission/reception unit 11 and a main telephone set 16 or among the detection circuits 12 to 14; 16 is the main telephone set; 17 is a circuit; 18 is a ROM in which a control program is stored; 19 is a RAM in which various kinds of telephone numbers of a partner for permitting the repeating multiple-address transmission, repeating multiple-address reception station, and the like are stored; and 20 is a battery to back up the content of the RAM 19.

Applicant submits that nothing in Watanabe et al. would teach or suggest that the controller (CPU 6) (a) adds transmitter information when a start of ring-type multiple-address transmission has been selected, and (b) does not do so when a transfer of ring-type multiple-address reception has been selected, as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action cites, in particular, column 4, lines 45-55, of Watanabe et al. as disclosing the controller of Claim 1, which is “arranged to perform a control operation so that, when a start of ring-type multiple-address transmission has been selected, transmitter information is added, and, when a transfer of ring-type multiple-address reception has been selected, the transmitter information is not added.” The cited passage merely discusses that the telephone number of the station for requesting the repeating multiple-address transmission and the telephone number of the repeating multiple-address reception station are previously registered in a facsimile apparatus having the function for the repeating multiple-address transmission. An originating call is automatically performed to this facsimile. Therefore, there is no need to indicate the telephone number of the repeating multiple-address reception station from the station for requesting the repeating multiple-address transmission. However, nothing has been found in Watanabe et al. that would teach or suggest a controller arranged to perform a control operation so that, when a start of ring-type multiple-address transmission has been selected, transmitter information is added, and, when a transfer of ring-type multiple-address reception has been selected, the transmitter information is not added.

In fact, the Office Action states on page 4 that “although Watanabe et al. is silent as to whether or not the added phone number of the transmitting facsimile apparatus is transmitted to the final destination, it can be concluded that the repeater does not add the phone number again in the facsimile data because it is already added/included by the transmitting

facsimile apparatus.” Thus, the Examiner admits that Watanabe et al. does not expressly disclose that, when a transfer of ring-type multiple-address reception has been selected, the transmitter information is not added, as required by Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that it has not been shown that Watanabe et al. anticipates Claim 1 because this element is not expressly disclosed in Watanabe et al. and because the Office Action does not show that this element is necessarily present in Watanabe et al., and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicant further submits that nothing in Watanabe et al. would teach or suggest that the “communication apparatus performs ring-type multiple-address transmission/reception of image data and the transmitter information is added as the image data,” as recited in Claim 1.

Independent Claim 6 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Claim 4 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to perform ring-type multiple-address transmission, the apparatus including a memory, a transfer unit, an identification unit, and a processor. The memory stores received image data, and the transfer unit is arranged to transfer the received image data stored in the memory. The identification unit identifies whether or not the received image data is data assigned to be subjected to ring-type multiple-address processing. The processor causes the transfer unit to transfer the received image data without adding transmitter information if the received image data is data assigned to be subjected to ring-type multiple-address processing, and causes the transfer unit to transfer the received image data with the transmitter information added thereto if the received image data is

not data assigned to be subjected to ring-type multiple-address processing, the transmitter information being added as image data.

Applicant submits that nothing in Watanabe et al. would teach or suggest that in a ring-type multiple-address processing situation, received image data will be transferred without adding transmitter information, and where the received image data is not to be subjected to ring-type multiple-address processing, the received image data will be transferred with the transmitter information added, as recited in Claim 4. In addition, Applicant further submits that nothing in Watanabe et al. would teach or suggest that the transmitter information is added as image data, as recited in Claim 4.

As discussed above, the Office Action states on page 4 that “although Watanabe et al. is silent as to whether or not the added phone number of the transmitting facsimile apparatus is transmitted to the final destination, it can be concluded that the repeater does not add the phone number again in the facsimile data because it is already added/included by the transmitting facsimile apparatus.” Thus, the Examiner admits that Watanabe et al. does not expressly disclose “a processor, arranged to cause said transfer unit to transfer the received image data without adding transmitter information if the received image data is data assigned to be subjected to ring-type multiple-address processing, and to cause said transfer unit to transfer the received image data with the transmitter information added thereto if the received image data is not data assigned to be subjected to ring-type multiple-address processing,” as recited in Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that it has not been shown that Watanabe et al. anticipates Claim 4 because this element is not expressly disclosed in Watanabe et al. and because the Office Action does not show that this element is necessarily present in Watanabe et al., and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill in the art.

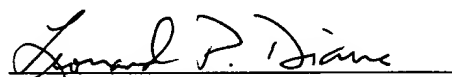
Independent Claim 9 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 4, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 4.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 500391v1